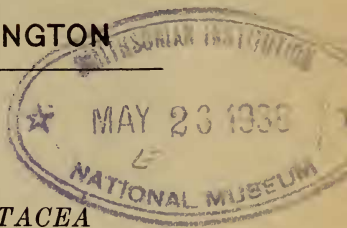


PROCEEDINGS
OF THE
BIOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF WASHINGTON



THE RACES OF *OREOPELEIA MYSTACEA*
(TEMMINCK).

BY STUART T. DANFORTH.

In a series of fourteen Bridled Quail Doves from six islands in my collection, mostly obtained on an extended collecting trip to the Lesser Antilles in 1937, there are three specimens from Saba. Apparently only two specimens (one of them the type of *Geotrygon sabae* Riley) had previously been obtained there. I find that my three birds from there differ in nowise from specimens from the islands of St. Kitts to St. Lucia. Riley evidently described an immature bird in the mistaken idea that it was an adult, since I have a male from Montserrat and a female from Guadeloupe which agree very closely with his description, especially in having the suborbital stripe, chin and upper throat buff instead of white, and in the darker color of the under parts. Therefore *Geotrygon sabae* should be regarded as a synonym of *Oreopeleia m. mystacea*.

On the other hand I find that a series of five specimens collected in St. Croix by Mr. Harry A. Beatty show constant differences from the birds of the Lesser Antilles, and I take pleasure in naming them in honor of their collector as

Oreopeleia mystacea beattyi, subsp. nov.

Subspecific characters.—All measurements average smaller than in *O. m. mystacea*; the white of the suborbital stripe, chin and upper throat is of a purer white (less tinged with buffy) than in typical *mystacea*; the under parts are lighter, and the brown of the pileum is of a lighter shade (light drab to drab instead of dark hair brown to chaetura drab).

Type.—No. 2996, Coll. of S. T. Danforth, adult male, collected at Prosperity Garden, St. Croix, Virgin Islands, February 20, 1938, by Harry A. Beatty.

Measurements of type.—Wing 162.5; tail 88.2; culmen from base 27.0; tarsus 32.0 mm.

Remarks.—Three males of *O. m. beattyi* measure: Wing 159.9–162.5 (161.4); tail 85.3–90 (87.8); culmen from base 26.5–28.2 (27.2); tarsus 32–32.9 (32.6). Ridgway¹ reports even smaller measurements of an adult male from St. Croix, viz., wing 156.6; tail 87; tarsus 33. Two females measure: wing 155.5–158.6 (157); tail 82.2 (one); culmen from base 27.4–29.5 (28.4); tarsus 30.1–31.0 (30.5).

Corresponding measurements of *O. m. mystacea* are: Six males, wing 158.6–172.6 (165.1); [if an abnormally small and possibly defective male from Montserrat is not considered these measurements read, wing 163–172.6 (166.6)]; tail 88–96 (90.6); culmen from base 27–28.3 (27.8); tarsus 32.3–35 (33.2). Three females, wing 160.6–161 (160.8); tail 79.3–87.8 (84.4); culmen from base 28.6–29.7 (29.3); tarsus 31.8–34 (33).

By islands the measurements of specimens of *O. m. mystacea* are as follows: *Males*—2, Saba, wing 163–172.6; tail 89–94; culmen from base 28.3–28.3; tarsus 32.3–32.5. 1, St. Kitts, wing 168.1; tail 96; culmen from base 28.1; tarsus 35.0. 2, Montserrat, wing 158.6–164.8; tail 88–88.3; culmen from base 27–27.2; tarsus 32.4–34.7. 1, St. Lucia, wing 163.2; tail 88.5; culmen from base 27.8; tarsus 32.4. *Females*.—1, Saba, wing 160.8; tail 79.3; culmen from base 29.7; tarsus 34. 1, Montserrat, wing 160.6; tail 86; culmen from base 28.6; tarsus 31.8. 1, Guadeloupe, wing 161; tail 87.8; culmen from base 29.7; tarsus 33.2.

Distribution.—Island of St. Croix, Virgin Islands.

Material examined.—*O. m. beattyi*: St. Croix, 5; *O. m. mystaces*: Saba, 3; St. Kitts, 1; Montserrat, 3; Guadeloupe, 1; St. Lucia, 1.

¹U. S. Nat. Mus. Bull. 50, VII, 1916, p. 474.